

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER:HHB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 016546 TOSEC 010144

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
JANUARY 22, 1976

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SPOKESMAN GAVE FOLLOWING REPLIES:

1. REPORT FROM MADRID THAT AGREEMENT REACHED ON U.S. BASES AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS: AGREEMENT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN REACHED. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN COMPLETED. THERE WILL BE FIGURES FOR MILITARY AND NONMILITARY ASSISTANCE BUT ANY TOTALS BEING REPORTED IN PRESS ARE PURELY SPECULATIVE. WE HOPE NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED FOR SIGNATURE BY SECRETARY AND SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER LATER IN WEEK.

2. REPORTED ACCORD IN LEBANON: WE WOULD NATURALLY BE ENCOURAGED BY SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE SERIOUS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE CEASEFIRE THAT STICKS AND POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO AND
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PRESERVE SECURITY OF ALL LEBANESE COMMUNITIES.

3. ASKED IF U.S. BELIEVES THAT INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON, OF SORT NOW APPARENTLY TAKING PLACE, IS NECESSARY AND WHETHER U.S. INTERESTED IN BEING MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED, SPOKESMAN SAID WE MUST WAIT AND SEE EVOLUTION OF EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY TO RESOLVE CRISIS BEFORE CONSIDERING IF OTHER AVENUES EXIST THAT CAN BE EXPLORED. WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WHICH INCLUDE ARAB GOVERNMENTS, ISRAEL AND EUROPEAN ALLIES WHO ARE CONCERNED.

4. PRESENCE OF SYRIA IN LEBANESE SETTLEMENT IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: WE DO NOT HAVE DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENT THAT MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED SO CANNOT COMMENT ON ROLES WHICH MAY BE BEING ASSUMED BY VARIOUS PARTIES.

5. LIST OF BIDS AND BIDDERS IN RECENT CONTRACT AWARD FOR SINAI SUPPORT MISSION: NO REQUIREMENT EXISTS THAT BIDS OR BIDDERS BE PUBLISHED. DECISION TO PUBLISH OR NOT TO PUBLISH THEM IS DISCRETIONARY.

6. TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT U.S. AND SOVIET UNION WILL RESUME OIL NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK WAS DISTRIBUTED AT BRIEFING.

ROBINSON

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